(b) What is the estimated decline in foreign exchange earnings as a consequences thereof; and

(c) What steps have been taken by Government to make good the losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) It is difficult to quantify the losses suffered on account of the plague. Exporters expressed the opinion that the outbreak of plague had delayed their export shipments to certain destinations, some orders were also cancelled. Total exports during the month of October are estimated at $2198 million which are 26.9% higher compared to exports recorded in October, 1993.

Import of used/Second hand Automobile Engines

*68. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of used/second hand automobile engines is allowed from abroad;

(b) if not, the reasons there for;

(c) whether such import is banned under some presseure from industrial houses in India for their benefit;

(d) Whether Government are aware that interest of common consumers are affected by this ban; and

(e) Whether this ban will be lifted under the liberalized policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the, current Export and Import Policy-1992-97, Import of consumer durables and second-hand goods including used/second-hand automobile engines (except capital goods) in the Restricted list of imports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government is not considering liberalisation of the import of used/second hand automobile engines on account of non-availability of spare parts for their repairs and maintenance and environmental pollution.

Lack of Coordination between Ministries Leading to Decline in Export Growth

*69. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the recent decline in export growth is the result of lack of coordination between the Finance and Commerce Ministries as has been alleged by the Managing Committee of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Export growth has not been affected recently due to any lack of coordination within the Government. Infact export growth has been steadily increasing in recent months and is estimated to be about 14% in April-October 1994 compared to April-October, 1993.

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for elimination of child labour

*70. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a estimated 20 lakhs children are e